# CHAPTER 2. BASIN CHARACTERISTICS

# 2.1 DRAINAGE BASIN AND STREAM REACHES

# 2.1.1 Subbasin Boundaries/Characteristics

The Boise Creek basin was divided into seven subbasins based on topographic information and King County staff input on appropriate areas for simulating flow rates. Figure 2-1 shows the subbasins and stream reaches used for the basin characterization. Table 2-1 lists the area of each subbasin.

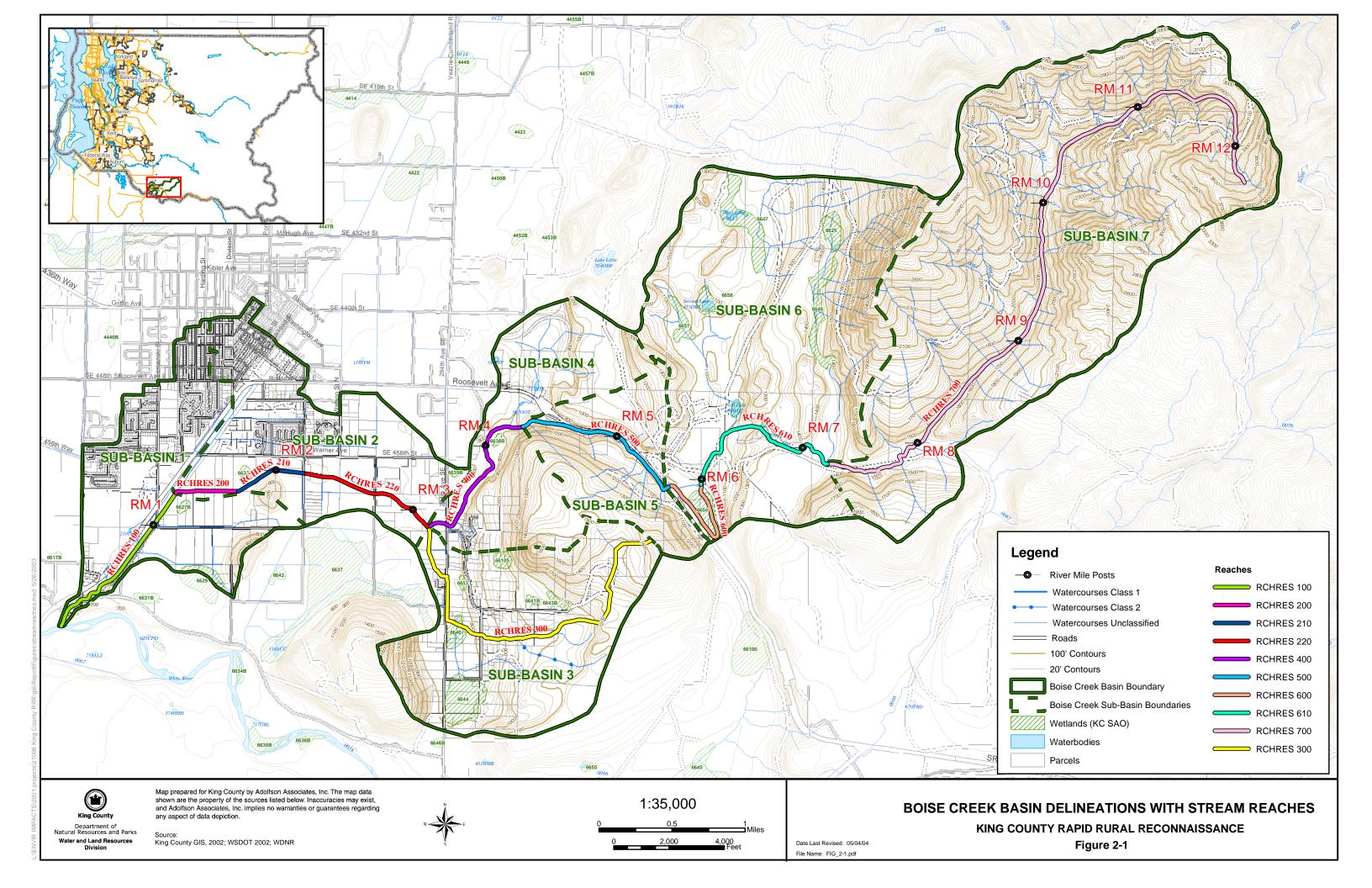
TABLE 2-1. BOISE CREEK SUBBASIN AREAS							
Subbasin Area (acres)							
1	874						
2	960						
3	1,195						
4	785						
5	534						
6	2,257						
7	73,256						
Total	9,861						

## Subbasin 1

Subbasin 1 is the most downstream subbasin along Boise Creek and has an area of 874 acres. Elevation in the subbasin ranges from 630 feet at the creek's confluence with the White River, to about 900 feet at a knoll in the subbasin. About half of the subbasin lies within the Enumclaw city limits. Boise Creek has about a 2.2 percent slope through Subbasin 1.

## Subbasin 2

Subbasin 2 is a 960-acre area immediately upstream of Subbasin 1. About half of the subbasin lies within the Enumclaw city limits. The creek channel through Subbasin 2 was divided into three segments to represent its different channel geometry and channel slope. Elevation in this subbasin ranges from about 720 feet to about 900 feet; most of the subbasin is about 750 feet. The channel slope ranges from 0.2 to 0.5 percent. Significant overbank flooding occurs in this subbasin. A detailed survey is needed to define the 100-year flooding limits. The 100-year depth of flooding was estimated by using an approximate channel cross-section for each of the stream reaches. The calculated 100-year depths for Reaches 200, 210, and 220 are 6.4 feet, 8.3 feet, and 5.8 feet, respectively.



#### Subbasin 3

Subbasin 3 is a 1,195-acre area in the south-central portion of the basin. This subbasin was defined to encompass an unnamed tributary that flows into the left bank of Boise Creek. This subbasin is hilly with elevations ranging from about 760 to about 1,700 feet at Pinnacle Peak Park. 284th Avenue SE is the main east-west road and largest arterial in the subbasin. The channel slope is 8.3 percent from the headwaters to 286th Avenue SE and 1 percent from 286th to Boise Creek.

#### Subbasin 4

Subbasin 4 is 785 acres and includes portions of the King County Fairgrounds-, Enumclaw Park, the Enumclaw Golf Course and the Enumclaw Sportsman Park. The channel of Boise Creek within this area has a slope of about 0.7 percent. The elevation ranges from about 760 feet to 1,600 feet. Overbank flooding occurs in the upper reach of Subbasin 4. A detailed survey is needed to define the flooding limits. The 100-year depth of flooding was estimated by using an approximate channel cross-section for this stream reach. Based on this cross-section, the 100-year depth was calculated to be 5.9 feet.

## Subbasin 5

Subbasin 5 is a 534-acre subbasin in the middle of the basin. The elevation varies from about 860 feet to 1,600 feet. Highway 410 parallels Boise Creek through the middle of the subbasin and restricts its lateral movement. The transition from easily developable lowlands to the foothills of the Cascades occurs in this subbasin.

# Subbasin 6

Subbasin 6 is 2,257 acres northeast of Highway 410. It consists of undulating hills with elevations varying from about 1,000 feet to over 3,000 feet. It includes the remnants of the landmark Mill Pond, which for many decades served a lumber processing plant near Highway 410 and was filled in 1994. The subbasin also includes First, Second and Third Lakes, and numerous minor tributaries and wetlands. Few roads exist in the area; most of the subbasin is forested. The channel through this subbasin was divided into two segments representing significantly different channel geometry and slope. The channel slope varies from 0.4 percent to about 5 percent.

#### Subbasin 7

Subbasin 7 is 3,256 acres in the easternmost portion of the basin, representing the headwaters of Boise Creek. This basin is situated within the foothills of the Cascade Mountains and contains numerous ravines and minor tributaries that feed Boise Creek. Elevations vary from about 1,300 feet to over 3,900 feet. Several logging roads are located in this subbasin. The subbasin is forested.

# 2.1.2 Stream Reaches

Boise Creek was divided into 10 segments for use in the HSPF model of the basin. Generally, one segment was defined per subbasin with the exception of Subbasins 2 and 6, where three and two segments, respectively, were defined to represent channel variability. All channel segments, with the exception of the reach for Subbasin 3, represent the main stem of Boise Creek. The channel segment in Subbasin 3 is a tributary to Boise Creek.

Each channel segment was assigned a "RCHRES" number for modeling. Channel geometry for each segment was defined based on available information, including topographic mapping and a site visit. Field surveys were not conducted to determine actual cross-sections. Table 2-2 summarizes key information for each segment. Figure 2-2 depicts the RCHRES routing and the subbasin inflows used in the HSPF model.

TABLE 2-2. BOISE CREEK CHANNEL SEGMENT CHARACTERISTICS									
RCHRES Number	Subbasin Primary Channel Notes $^b$ Geometry (feet) $^a$								
100	1	6 x 30 x 1	No floodplain storage included.						
200	2	5 x 20 x 2	Floodplain storage included.						
210	2	6 x 10 x 1.5	Floodplain storage included.						
220	2	5 x 20 x 2	Floodplain storage included.						
300	3	4 x 4 x 1.5	Floodplain storage included.						
400	4	5 x 18 x 1	Floodplain storage included.						
500	5	7 x 20 x 1.5	No floodplain storage included.						
600	6	10 x 20 x 1.5	No floodplain storage included.						
610	6	6 x 10 x 1	No floodplain storage included.						
700	7	6 x 8 x 1	No floodplain storage included.						

a. Trapezoidal channel, dimensions represent depth, base width and side-slope ratio (horizontal to vertical).

b. If required, all channels were extended to convey predicted flood flows by extended the side slopes, with the exception of the noted channels where field observation indicated likely significant floodplain storage.

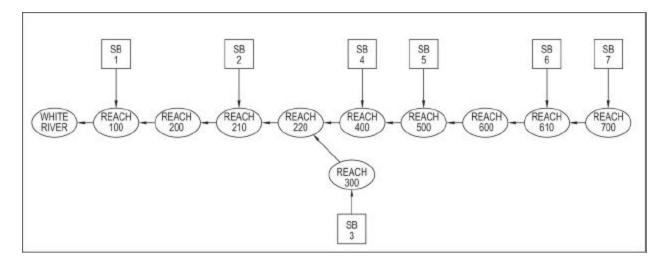


Figure 2-2. Graphic Representation of RCHRES Routing

# 2.2 LAND COVER ANALYSIS

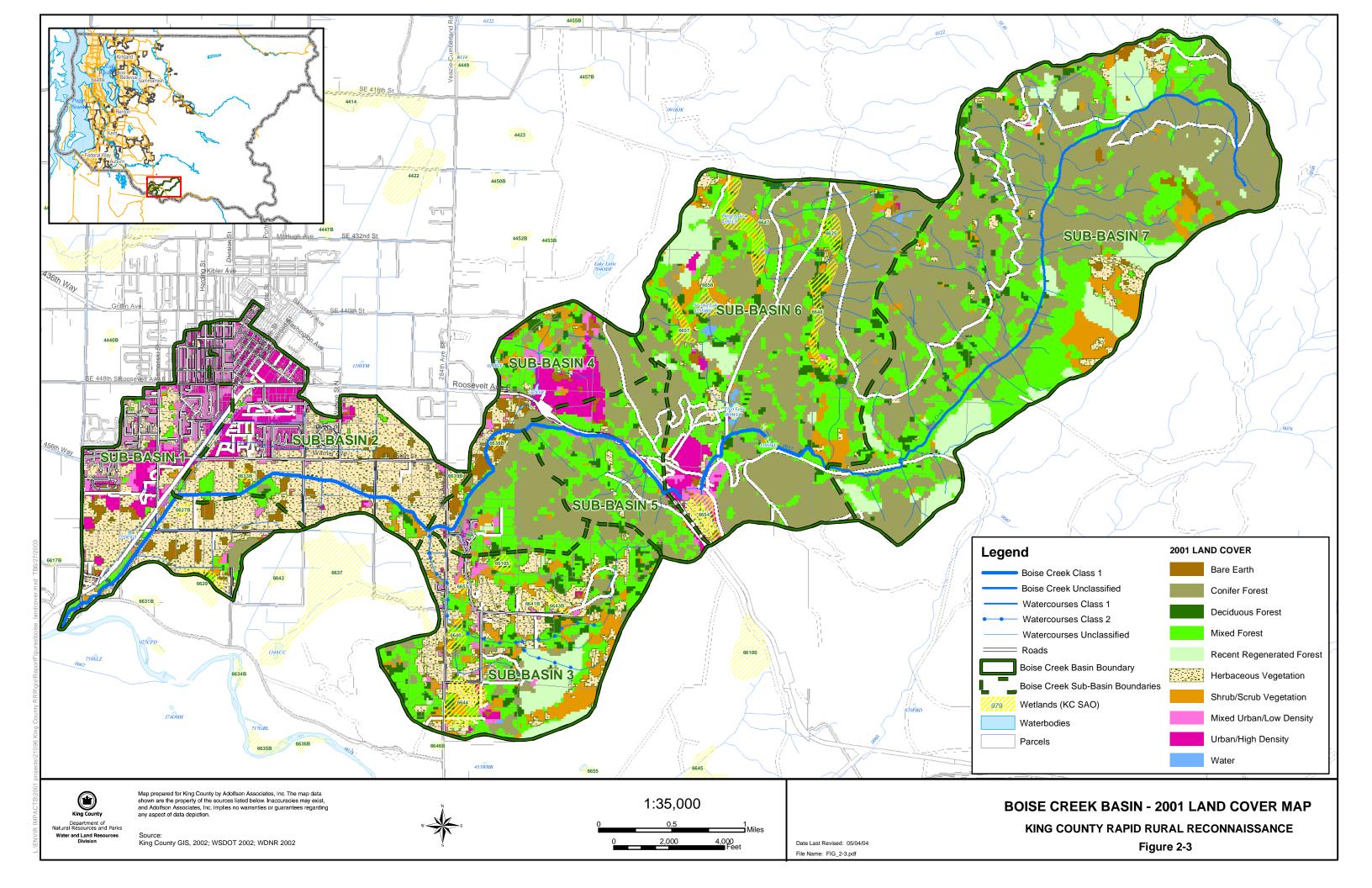
GIS analysis was used to compute the pervious (PERLND) and impervious (IMPLND) land cover area in each subbasin for the HSPF model. The pervious input parameter represents a composite of land cover type, soils, and topography. The impervious areas are based on an effective impervious area (EIA) being applied to each of the land cover types. All data used were provided by King County. Data shape files used to compile land surface types were clipped to the boundaries of the Boise Creek subbasins.

# 2.2.1 Land Cover

Figure 2-3 shows the existing (2001) distribution of the following types of land cover within the basin:

- Urban/High Density Developed
- Mixed Urban/Low Density Developed
- Water
- Bare Earth
- Conifer Forest
- Deciduous Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Recent Regenerated Forest
- Herbaceous Vegetation
- Shrub/Scrub Vegetation.

The GIS land cover types were converted to equivalent HSPF classifications using the equivalencies shown in Table 2-3, which was provided by King County. Table 2-4 lists the EIA defined for each land



cover type, as provided by King County and modified to represent characteristics of the Boise Creek basin.

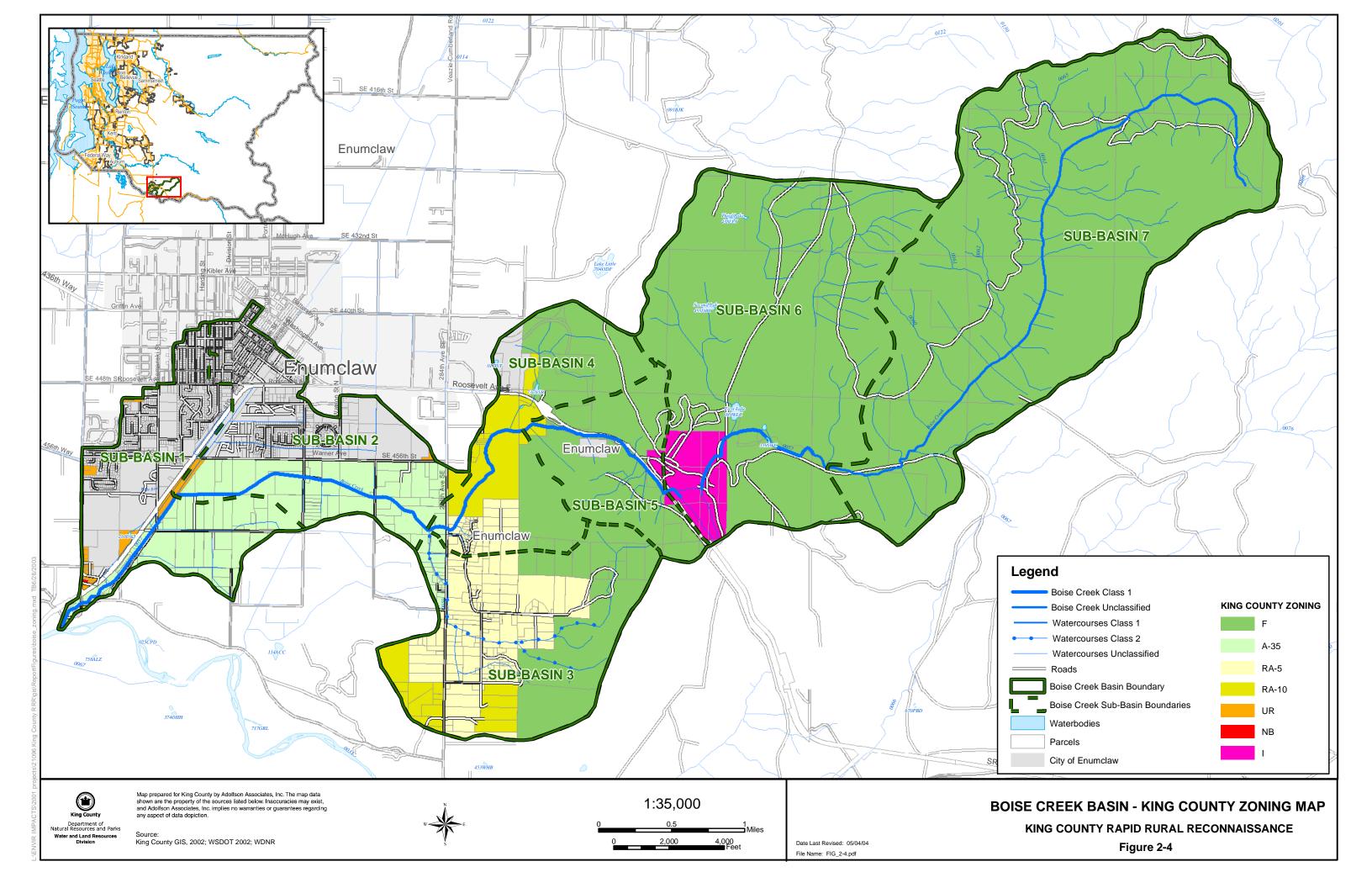
TABLE 2-3. PERVIOUS LAND COVER TYPE EQUIVALENCY FOR HSPF						
Land Cover Type from GIS	HSPF Pervious Land Cover Type					
Bare Earth	Grass					
Mixed Urban / Low Density Developed	90% Grass & 10% Forest					
Urban / High Density Developed	90% Grass & 10% Forest					
Conifer Forest	Forest					
Deciduous Forest	Forest					
Mixed Forest	Forest					
Recent Regenerated Forest	Forest					
Herbaceous Vegetation	Grass					
Shrub / Scrub Vegetation	Grass					

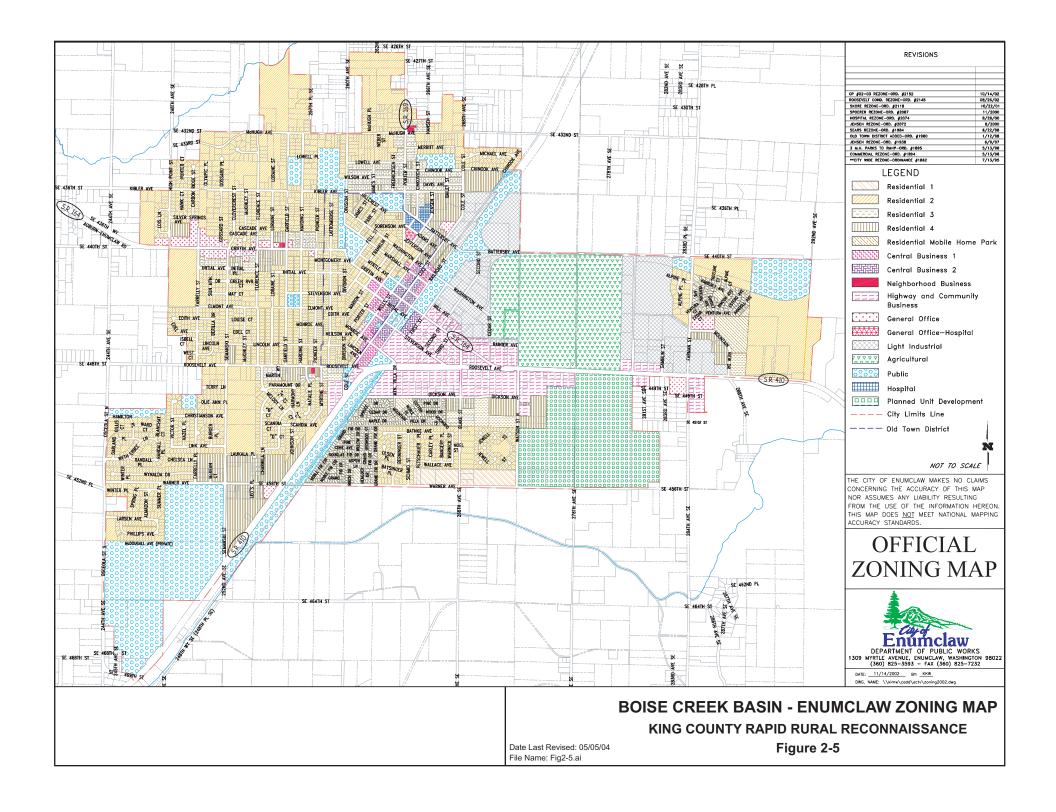
TABLE 2-4. EFFECTIVE IMPERVIOUS AREA (EIA)							
2001 Land Cover Type EIA							
Bare Earth	3%						
Conifer Forest	0.5%						
Deciduous Forest	0.5%						
Herbaceous Vegetation	1%						
Mixed Forest	0.5%						
Mixed Urban / Low Density	22%						
Recent Regenerated Forest	1%						
Shrub / Scrub Vegetation	1%						
Urban / High Density	85%						
Water	100%						

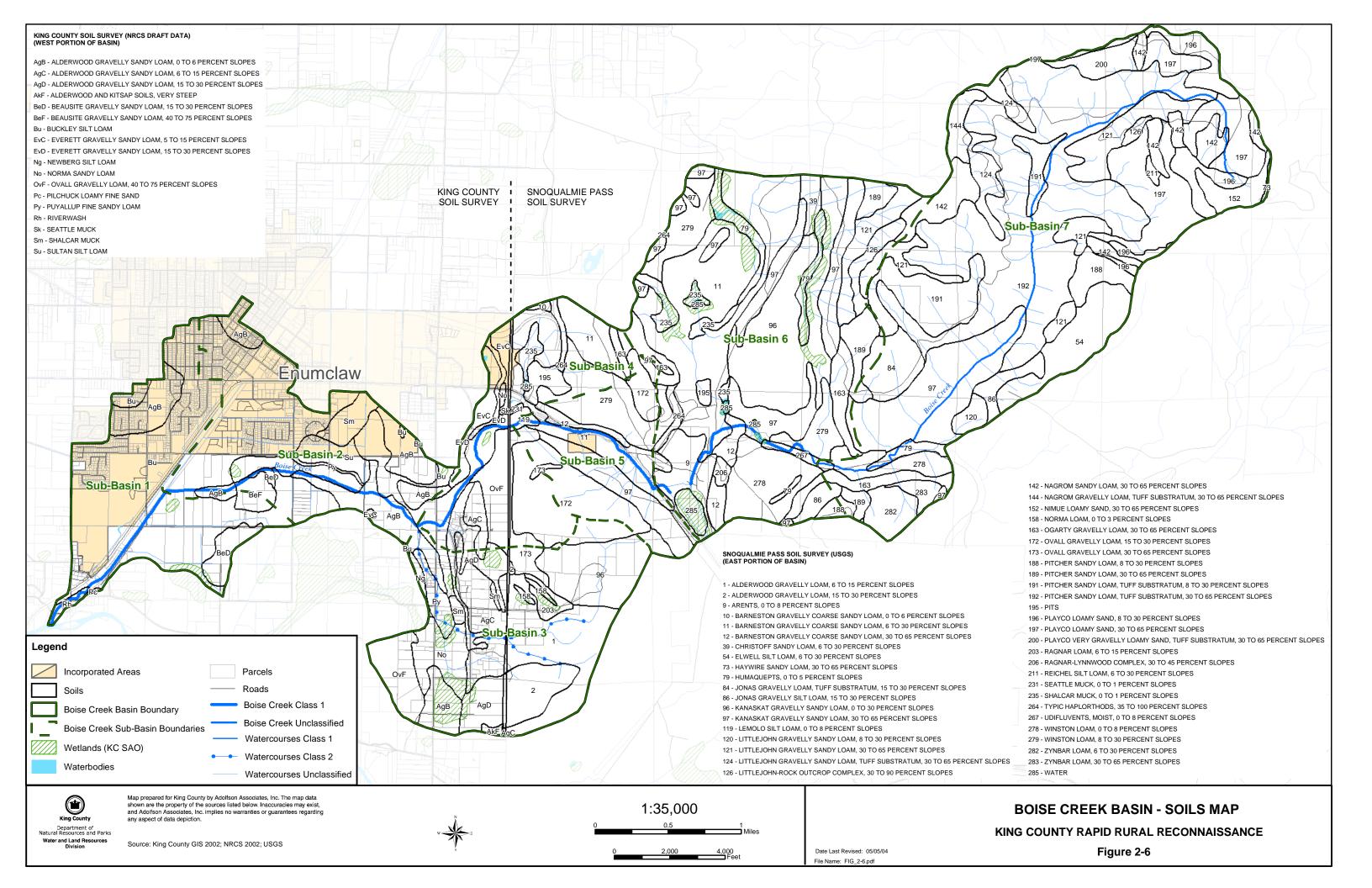
Future-condition impervious area was determined by assuming full development to the density allowed by existing zoning. Figures 2-4 and 2-5 show the zoning in the basin, and Table 2-5 lists the EIA for each zoning category, as provided by King County and modified to represent characteristics of the Boise Creek basin.

# **2.2.2** Soils

Figure 2-6 shows soil types in the basin. Portions of Subbasins 1 and 2, in the vicinity of Enumclaw, were not covered by the County-supplied GIS soils file, so hard copies of the King County Soils Survey Maps were used to determine soil types in these areas. Table 2-6 lists the GIS soil type and the associated HSPF soil type.







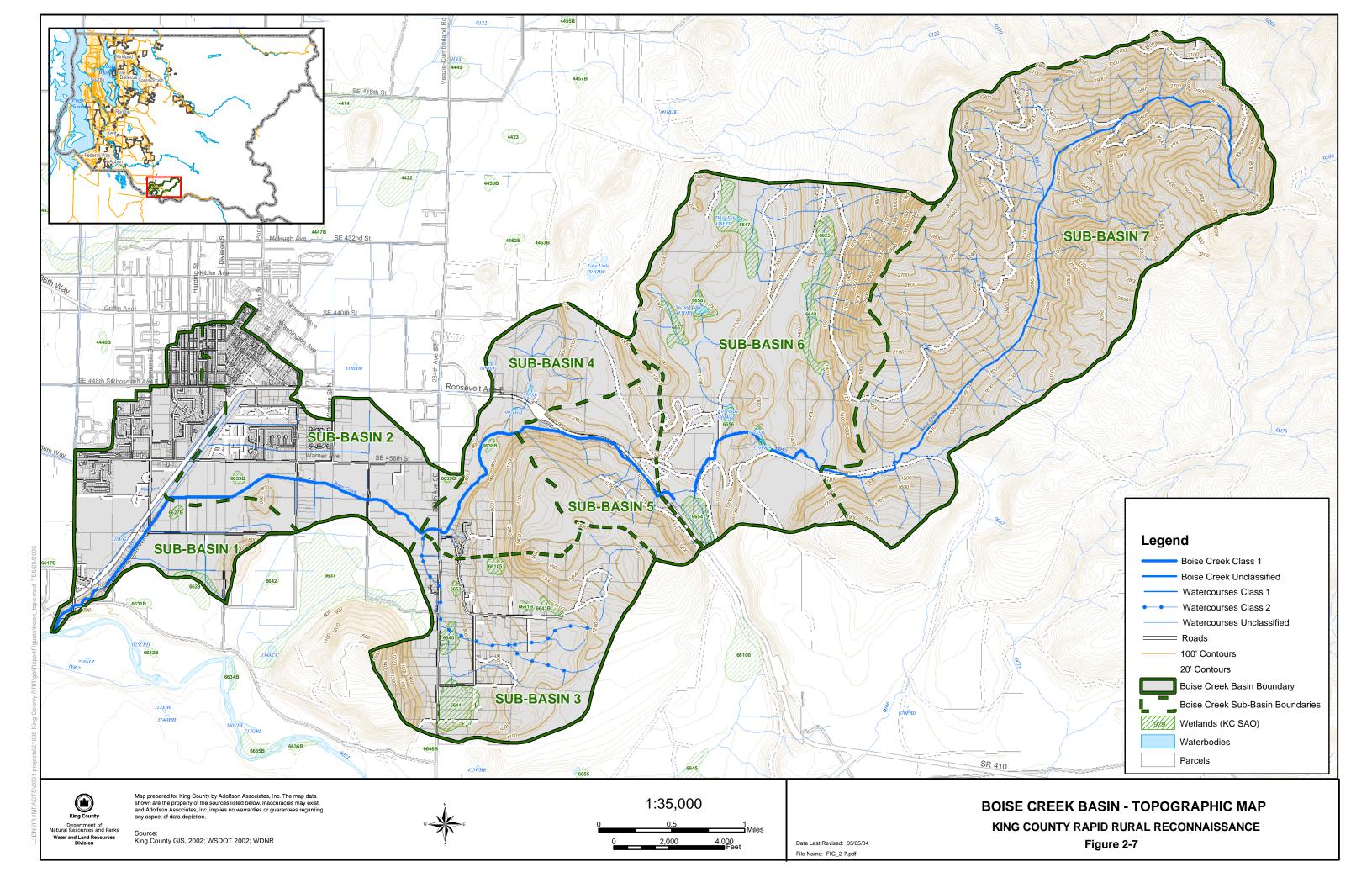
# 2.2.3 Topography

The County-provided GIS file for topography was derived from a GIS surface model and includes six slope categories. Figure 2-7 shows this information. A small portion of the upper reach of Subbasin 7 was classified as "no data." Based on surrounding characteristics, this area was assigned the HSPF slope classification of "moderate." Table 2-7 correlates the percent slope provided by King County to an equivalent HSPF slope category.

# 2.2.4 GIS Analysis

GIS overlay analysis of land cover, soil and slope was used to generate an HSPF land surface type layer. The HSPF land surface type layer was then overlaid with the Boise Creek subbasin layer.

	EFFECTIVE IMPERVIOUS AREA BY ZONING CODE	
Zoning Code	Description	EIA
King Cou	nty Zoning Categories	
A-35	Agriculture – 35 acre lot	1.0%
F	Forest	0.0%
RA-5	Rural Area – 5 acre lot size	4.0%
RA-10	Rural Area – 10 acre lot size	2.0%
UR	Urban Reserve	10.0%
NB	Neighborhood Business	85.0%
I	Industrial	85.0%
City of Er	numclaw Zoning Categories	
P	Public Use District	4.0%
PUD	Planned Unit Development	40.0%
R-1	SF Residential, min 15,000-square-foot lot, max 3 du/ac	15.0%
R-2	SF Residential, 2.4 to 5.2 du/ac	20.0%
R-3	Mixed Residential, 3.5 to 7 du/ac	33.0%
R-4	Multifamily Residential, 15 to 30 du/ac	56.0%
HCB	Highway & Community Business, 10,000 sf min lot	85.0%
CB-1	Central Business Commercial with on-site parking	85.0%
CB-2	Central Business Commercial w/o on-site parking	85.0%
NB	Neighborhood Business	85.0%
GO	General Office	85.0%
Other Ca	tegories	
ROW	Right of Way	85.0%
BSW	Boise Springs Watershed	0



There is a potential for 165 unique land surface types (combinations of land cover, soil type and slope). Table 2-8 summarizes the number of unique land surface types in each of the Boise Creek subbasins. The types were aggregated into the 16 HSPF land surface types listed in Table 2-9.

For the predevelopment condition, it was assumed that the entire basin was forested, with the exception of open water, and that all HSPF soil and slope types are the same as for existing conditions. An EIA of 0 percent was applied to all land surface types except open water that was assigned an EIA of 100 percent. Predevelopment wetland areas were based on HSPF soil types classified as saturated.

Tables 2-10, 2-12 and 2-13 summarize land surface types for predevelopment, existing, and future conditions, respectively. Table 2-13 compares the EIA for existing and future land use conditions and lists the percent existing forest cover for each subbasin.

TABLE 2-6. SOIL TYPE TRANSFORMATION FOR HSPF							
Soil Name (from GIS)	HSPF Soil Type	Soil Name (from GIS)	HSPF Soil Type				
Everett	Outwash	Haywire	Bedrock				
Aquic Xerofluvents	Outwash	Fluvaquentic Humaquepts	Till				
Puyallup	Till	Nagrom	Bedrock				
Newberg	Till	Kanaskat	Outwash				
Norma	Till	Indianola	Outwash				
Seattle	Saturated	Ragnar	Outwash				
Buckley	Till	Barneston	Outwash				
Sultan	Till	Arents	Outwash				
Shalcar	Till	Littlejohn	Bedrock				
Alderwood	Till	Pits	Outwash				
Beausite	Till	Playco	Outwash				
Ovall	Till	Terric Medisaprists	Till				
Reichel	Bedrock	Water	Water				
Winston	Outwash	Xerochrepts	Till				
Jonas	Bedrock	Nimue	Bedrock				
Zynbar	Till	Ogarty	Outwash				
Christoff	Till	Pitcher	Bedrock				

TABLE 2-7. SLOPE CATEGORY EQUIVALENCY FOR HSPF						
Percent Slope HSPF Slope (King County Data)						
0-10	Flat					
10-20	Moderate					
20-30	Steep					
30-40	Steep					
>=40 Steep						
no data	Moderate					

TABLE 2-8. NUMBER OF UNIQUE LAND SURFACE TYPES BY SUBBASIN								
Boise Creek Subbasins Number of HSPF Land Surface Types								
1	23							
2	22							
3	51							
4	59							
5	40							
6	85							
7	63							

TABLE 2-9. AGGREGATED LAND SURFACE TYPES USED IN HSPF						
HSPF Category	Description					
TF/Mild	Till Forest Mild Slope					
TF/Moderate	Till Forest Moderate Slope					
TF/Steep	Till Forest Steep Slope					
TG/Mild	Till Grass Mild Slope					
TG/Moderate	Till Grass Moderate Slope					
TG/Steep	Till Grass Steep Slope					
BRF/Mild	Bedrock Forest Mild Slope					
BRF/Moderate	Bedrock Forest Moderate Slope					
BRF/Steep	Bedrock Forest Steep Slope					
BRG/Mild	Bedrock Grass Mild Slope					
BRG/Moderate	Bedrock Grass Moderate Slope					
BRG/Steep	Bedrock Grass Steep Slope					
OF	Outwash Forest					
OG	Outwash Grass					
Wetlands	Wetlands					
Impervious	Impervious					

TABLE 2-10. PREDEVELOPED LAND SURFACE SUMMARY								
				Area (	acres)			
Land Surface	Subbasin 1	Subbasin 2	Subbasin 3	Subbasin 4	Subbasin 5	Subbasin 6	Subbasin 7	Total
TF/Mild	824.46	940.12	543.04	151.18	26.19	117.05	102.21	2,704.25
TF/Moderate	21.17	9.45	283.52	106.20	73.81	35.04	145.04	674.23
TF/Steep	28.17	9.08	163.12	159.88	70.01	13.09	31.69	475.04
OF	0	1.74	204.02	357.51	363.50	1,766.69	948.80	3,642.26
BRF/Mild	0	0	0	0	0	4.86	56.27	61.13
BRF/Moderate	0	0	0	0	0	24.86	342.48	367.34
BRF/Steep	0	0	0	0	0	249.42	1,629.78	1,879.20
Wetlands	0	0	0	7.67	0	0	0	7.67
EIA	0.01	0	0.81	2.84	0	45.98	0	49.64
Total	873.81	960.39	1194.5	785.28	533.51	2256.99	3256.20	9,860.76

TABLE 2-11. EXISTING (2001) LAND SURFACE SUMMARY								
		Area (acres)						
Land Surface	Subbasin 1	Subbasin 2	Subbasin 3	Subbasin 4	Subbasin 5	Subbasin 6	Subbasin 7	Total
TF/Mild	53.37	45.84	216.49	68.64	25.82	93.14	89.08	592.38
TF/Moderate	5.66	4.32	148.67	79.78	72.00	30.76	94.95	436.14
TF/Steep	19.64	5.91	126.06	151.38	67.91	11.49	15.35	397.74
TG/Mild	603.40	678.68	314.75	77.61	0.24	22.73	12.45	1709.86
TG/Moderate	14.66	5.01	125.53	21.71	1.43	3.86	48.90	221.10
TG/Steep	8.14	3.11	35.72	6.57	1.75	1.52	16.09	72.92
OF	0	1.23	138.59	186.85	294.40	1516.10	873.35	3010.52
OG	0	0.51	62.70	103.03	34.11	181.96	69.41	451.72
BRF/Mild	0	0	0	0	0	4.83	51.53	56.36
BRF/Moderate	0	0	0	0	0	24.22	323.79	348.01
BRF/Steep	0	0	0	0	0	237.45	1523.47	1760.92
BRG/Mild	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.33	4.33
BRG/Moderate	0	0	0	0	0	0.50	16.57	17.07
BRG/Steep	0	0	0	0	0	10.01	96.66	106.67
Wetlands	0	0	0	7.53	0	0	0	7.53
EIA	168.92	215.78	26.00	82.18	35.85	118.42	20.34	667.49
Total	873.81	960.39	1194.5	785.28	533.51	2256.99	3256.20	9860.76

TABLE 2-12. FUTURE BUILDOUT LAND SURFACE SUMMARY  Area (acres)								
Zoning Category	Subbasin 1	Subbasin 2	Subbasin 3	Subbasin 4	Subbasin 5	Subbasin 6	Subbasin 7	Total

King County								
A-35	255.20	365.97	33.83	9.73	0	0	0	664.73
F	0	0	444.93	373.00	383.50	1,501.37	2,707.57	5,410.37
RA-5	0	0	354.82	81.47	0	0	0	436.29
RA-10	1.56	9.50	85.71	126.08	1.64	0	0	224.49
UR	30.78	9.48	0	0	0	0	0	40.26
NB	0.69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.69
I	0	0	0	0	15.11	120.63	0	135.74
City of Enumclaw								
P	162.98	21.20	0	7.50	0	0	0	191.68
PUD	0	109.66	0	0	0	0	0	109.66
R-1	0	82.10	0	0	0	0	0	82.10
R-2	216.31	147.30	0	42.70	0	0	0	406.31
R-3	7.80	9.90	0	0	0	0	0	17.70
R-4	57.25	10.90	0	0	0	0	0	68.15
HCB	4.20	56.60	0	0	0	0	0	60.80
CB-1	0	11.50	0	0	0	0	0	11.50
CB-2	0	8.40	0	0	0	0	0	8.40
NB	0.60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.60
GO	1.72	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.72
Other Categories								
Boise Springs Watershed	0	0	0	0	15.30	0	0	15.30
ROW	83.00	63.13	22.60	15.15	18.92	4.37	0	207.17
Sensitive Areas	51.73	54.76	252.64	129.63	99.03	630.61	548.66	1,767.06
Total	873.81	960.39	1,194.5	785.28	533.51	2,256.99	3,256.23	9,860.76
EIA (included in above zoning categories) <sup>a</sup>	167.37	219.92	38.62	33.21	33.38	131.73	3.01	627.24

a. For some subbasins, the future EIA, calculated based on zoning designations, is lower than the existing EIA based on GIS land cover data, due to discrepancies between the two sets of data. For the hydrologic analysis performed for this report, when the land cover analysis indicated reduced EIA in the future, the value was kept the same as the existing EIA, on the assumption that impervious area would not be reduced with development to full buildout. Current orthophotos of the basin should be digitized and specific areas computed to correct this discrepancy

TABLE 2-13. EXISTING AND FUTURE EIA, FOREST COVER, AND SUBBASIN CLASSIFICATION									
		Percen	nt EIA	Existing Fore					
Subbasin	Area (acres)	Existing	Future <sup>a</sup>	Area (acres)	Percent	Classification <sup>b</sup>			
1	873.81	19.3	19.2	16.13	1.8	Impacted			
2	960.39	22.5	22.9	9.16	1.0	Impacted			
3	1,194.51	2.2	3.2	754.65	63.2	Sensitive			

4	785.28	10.5	4.2	558.97	71.2	Impacted
5	533.51	6.7	6.2	489	91.7	Sensitive
6	2,256.99	5.2	5.8	2,026.62	89.8	Sensitive
7	3,256.27	0.6	0.1	3,211.43	98.6	Sensitive
Basinwide	9,860.76	_	_	_	_	_

a. Values of future EIA lower than the existing levels are due to discrepancies between the data used for calculating the two values (see note to Table 2-12).

# 2.2.5 Riparian Corridor Land Cover Analysis

A 200-foot-wide stream riparian corridor, shown in Figure 2-8, was analyzed for existing land use. Table 2-14 summarizes the existing land cover within this corridor by subbasin. Future land cover in the corridor was not analyzed because it was not feasible to accurately predict the spatial distribution of future development in and along the corridor. It is assumed that sensitive-area regulations will protect the stream corridor in the future. Table 2-15 summarizes the existing land cover for the total Boise Creek subbasin.

# 2.2.6 Conclusions and Recommendations

Basin characteristics were derived from GIS data provided by King County. The effective impervious area was derived from a range of values provided by the County based on land use or zoning. In order to develop a more accurate representation of cover types and EIA, it is recommended that this information be developed from current orthophotos of the basin that could be digitized and specific areas computed.

b. Sensitive = 0 - 10% impervious cover; Impacted = 11 - 25% impervious cover; Non-Supporting = >25% impervious cover (from *Watershed Vulnerability Analysis*)

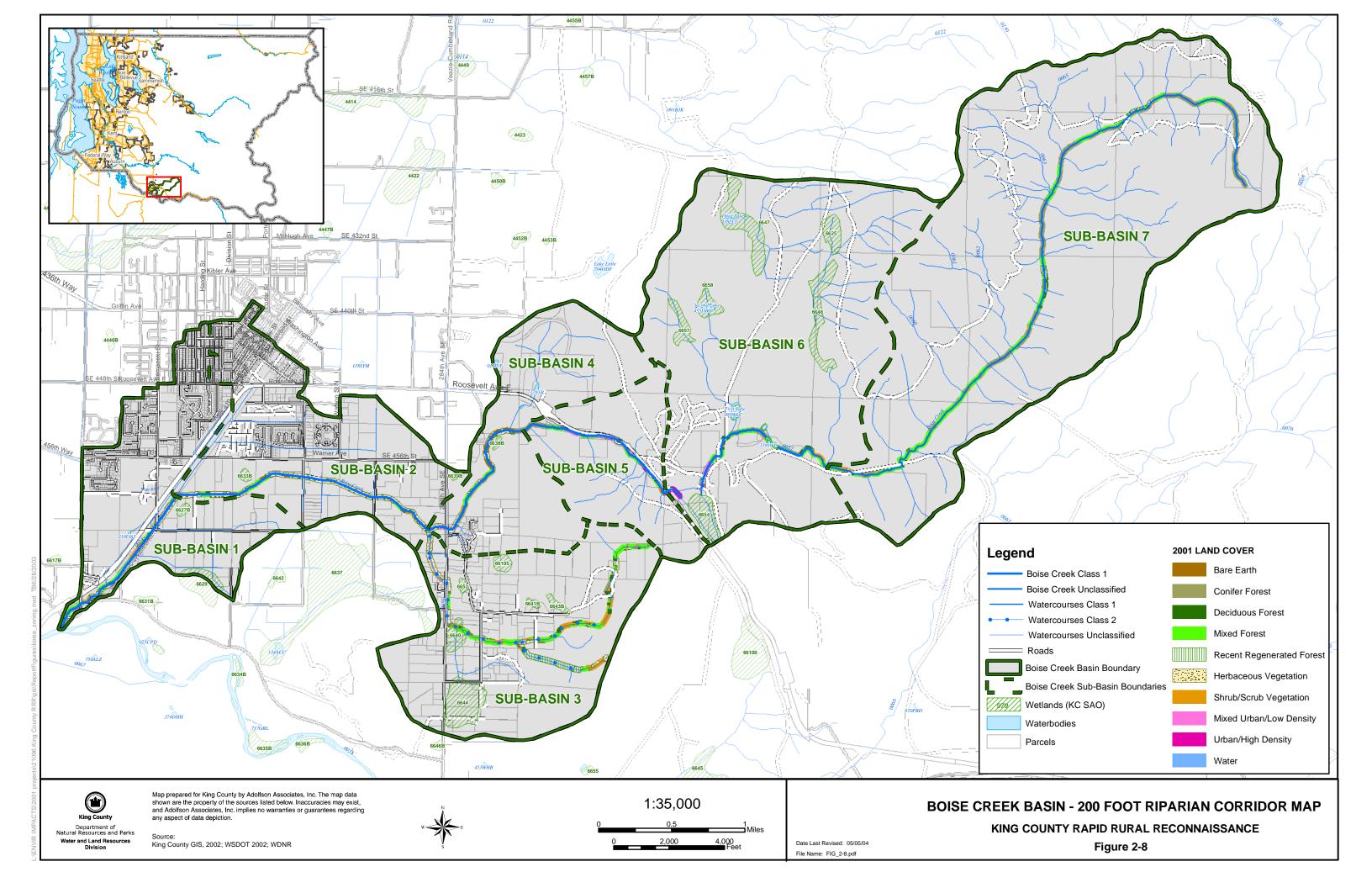


TABLE 2-14. EXISTING (2001) LAND SURFACE SUMMARY FOR 200-FOOT RIPARIAN CORRIDOR										
	Area (acres)									
Land Surface	Subbasin 1	Subbasin 2	Subbasin 3	Subbasin 4	Subbasin 5	Subbasin 6	Subbasin 7	Total		
Bare Earth	0.92	1.03	0.00	5.76	0.00	0.02	0.00	7.73		
Coniferous Forest	0.00	0.04	0.00	5.91	6.25	4.86	58.61	75.67		
Deciduous. Forest	0.19	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.34	2.60	1.25	4.83		
Herbaceous Forest	12.17	35.94	0.20	10.17	0.98	1.87	0.16	61.49		
Mixed Forest	12.30	6.49	0.00	4.32	8.41	16.65	53.65	101.82		
Recent Regenerated Forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.96	5.96		
Mixed Urban/Low Density	0.62	0.00	0.00	1.32	7.47	3.22	0.00	12.63		
Scrub/Shrub	4.09	1.77	0.00	0.74	0.70	2.50	2.44	12.24		
Urban High Density	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.72	3.20	0.00	7.92		
Water	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01		
Total	30.30	45.72	0.20	28.22	28.87	34.92	122.07	290.30		

	TABLE 2-15. EXISTING (2001) LAND SURFACE SUMMARY FOR THE BOISE CREEK SUBBASIN								
	Area (acres)								
Land Surface	Subbasin 1	Subbasin 2	Subbasin 3	Subbasin 4	Subbasin 5	Subbasin 6	Subbasin 7	Total	
Bare Earth	47.11	37.27	14.02	57.41	4.62	14.93	35.65	211.00	
Coniferous Forest	15.76	3.87	99.56	282.94	268.94	1210.56	1819.86	3701.49	
Deciduous. Forest	2.87	4.93	98.99	24.72	11.95	103.7	61.91	309.07	
Herbaceous Forest	421.79	543.0	341.87	74.95	12.07	69.46	83.26	1546.39	
Mixed Forest	43.75	37.58	319.76	176.071	179.11	514.80	773.54	2044.62	
Recent Regenerated Forest			111.99	2.59	0.66	100.75	332.74	548.73	
Mixed Urban/Low Density	185.43	100.76	39.86	38.99	16.35	40.67	0.97	423.04	
Scrub/Shrub	13.52	13.33	159.08	48.44	4.94	124.27	148.18	511.76	
Urban High Density	143.58	219.65	8.57	77.71	34.86	62.62	0.16	547.15	
Water	0.01		0.81	1.46		15.23		17.51	
Total	873.81	960.39	1194.51	785.28	533.51	2256.99	3256.27	9860.75	